



UNITED STATES

August 15, 2000

Marcia Cross, Tribal Preservation  
Confederated Salish & Kootenai  
P.O. Box 278  
Pablo, Montana 59855

Dear Ms. Cross:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is conducting investigations of asbestos contaminated soils at the former W.R. Graceland Creek, about five miles north of Libby. Remediation includes stripping a minimum depth of 18 inches below surface with some pockets of the soil up to 8 feet of contaminated soils.

Archaeological site 24LN 1 045, previously determined eligible for listing in the National Register, occurs entirely within the location scheduled for remediation. It is anticipated that the entire site will be adversely effected by planned remediation activities.

Enclosed is a report by Aaberg Cultural Resource Consulting Service of Billings, Montana which details the history of investigations of 24LN1045. This report also includes a proposal for recovery of significant information at the site as well as a review of the Section 106 process. We invite your review and comments on this report. Please note the significant information recovery plan includes a recommendation to sub-contract with the Salish-Kootenai to provide a history of the locality. Because of local community concerns about the extreme health and safety hazards posed by asbestos contamination immediate remediation action is required at the location of the old screening plant. Therefore we are asking for expedited review of the enclosed archaeological report. Expedited review would also allow time to set up a sub-contract with the Salish-Kootenai to begin work on a tribal history of the Rainy Creek locality if the tribes elect to participate.

On Thursday August, 3 a meeting was held at the Montana State Historic Preservation Office in Helena, Montana. The meeting was attended by Stan Wilmoth of the Montana SHPO, Paul Peronard of the EPA, Robert Alexander of CDM Federal Programs Corporation (contractor for the EPA), John Constan of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, and Stephen Aaberg of Aaberg Cultural Resource Consulting Service. The enclosed proposal for recovery of significant information from 24LN 1 045 was reviewed and discussed at this meeting. Stan Wilmoth agreed in principal with the recovery plan but recommended that the Advisory Council and the Salish-Kootenai Tribal Historic Preservation Council be contacted immediately since their review and comments are necessary in the 106 process. A copy of the enclosed information recovery plan and report has been sent to the Advisory Council.

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Marcia Cross  
Tribal Preservation Off  
P.O. Box 278  
Pablo, Montana 59855

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MIKE MORAN

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PS Form 3811, December 1994



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It is imperative that asbestos remediation progress swiftly. Remediation activities must be completed before inclement winter weather sets in. With your review and comments we hope to initiate archaeological significant information recovery at 24LN 1 045 within the next three weeks.

Thank you for your assistance in this process.

Sincerely,

Paul Peronard  
On Scene Coordinator  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 8  
999 18th Street  
Suite 500, 8EPR-ER  
Denver, Colorado 80202-2466